

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. In a system comprising a user and a vendor coupled by a communication system, a method for performing an electronic transaction between the user and the vendor, comprising:

- 5        establishing by a user an order list including at least one item to be obtained from the vendor;
- submitting the order list to the vendor over the communication system;
- receiving the list by the vendor;
- 10       making the list available to the user through a real-time connection with the vendor;
- establishing a real-time connection between the user and the vendor;
- and
- enabling the user to review and approve the order list during the
- 15       real-time connection.

2. The method of claim 1, further including identifying by the vendor the user who sent the order list and associating the order list with the user.

3. The method of claim 1, further including enabling the user to modify the order list during the real-time connection and prior to approving the list.

4. The method of claim 1, further including sending the order list to  
5 the vendor using e-mail.

5. The method of claim 4, further including establishing the real-time connection using a browser.

6. The method of claim 1, further including establishing the real-time connection using a browser.

7. The method of claim 1, further including using the Internet as the  
10 communication system.

8. In a system comprising a user and a vendor coupled by a communication system, a method for performing an electronic transaction between the user and the vendor, comprising:

15 establishing by a user an order list including at least one item to be obtained from the vendor;

submitting the order list to the vendor over the communication system;

receiving by the user a confirmation of the order list sent by the vendor;

editing the confirmation of the order list by the user to create a modified order list;

5 sending the modified confirmation order list to the vendor;

making the modified confirmation list available to the user through a real-time connection with the vendor;

establishing a real-time connection between the user and the vendor;

and

10 enabling the user to approve the order list during the real-time connection;

9. The method of claim 8, further including identifying by the vendor the user who sent the order list and associating the list with the user.

10. The method of claim 8, further including enabling the user to  
15 modify the order list during the real-time connection and prior to approving the list.

11. The method of claim 8, further including sending the order list to the vendor using e-mail.

12. The method of claim 11, further including establishing the real-time connection using a browser.

13. The method of claim 8, further including establishing the real-time connection using a browser.

5           14. The method of claim 8, further including using the Internet as the communication system.

15. In a system comprising a user and a vendor coupled by a communication system, a method for performing an electronic transaction between the user and the vendor, comprising:

10           sending a proposed order list by a vendor to a user;

            using the proposed order list by the user to create an order list;

            submitting the order list to the vendor over the communication system;

            making the order list available to the user through a real-time  
15   connection with the vendor;

            establishing a real-time connection between the user and the vendor;

and

            enabling the user to review and approve the order list during the real-time connection;

16. The method of claim 15, further including identifying by the vendor the user who sent the order list and associating the list with the user.

17. The method of claim 15, further including enabling the user to modify the order list during the real-time connection and prior to approving  
5 the list.

18. The method of claim 15, further including sending the order list to the vendor using e-mail.

19. The method of claim 18, further including establishing the real-time connection using a browser.

20. The method of claim 15, further including establishing the real-time connection using a browser.  
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21. The method of claim 15, further including using the Internet as the communication system.

22. In a system comprising a user and a vendor coupled by a communication system, a method for performing an electronic transaction  
15 between the user and the vendor, comprising:

establishing by a user a list including at least one item to be obtained from the vendor;

submitting the list to the vendor over the communication system;

receiving the list by the vendor;

parsing the list to extract an order for the vendor;

making the order available to the user through a real-time

5 connection with the vendor;

establishing a real-time connection between the user and the vendor;

and

enabling the user to review and approve the order during the real-time connection.

10 23. The method of claim 22, further including enabling the user to modify the order during the real-time connection and prior to approving the order.

24. The method of claim 22, further including using an automated process to parse the list.

15 25. The method of claim 22, wherein the communications system is the Internet, and further including using e-mail to submit the list to the vendor and using a browser to establish the real-time connection.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein parsing the list includes scanning the list for delimiters indicating order entries in the list.

27. In a system comprising a user and a vendor coupled by a communication system, a method for performing an electronic transaction between the user and the vendor, comprising:

- establishing by a user an order list including at least one item to be
  - 5 obtained from the vendor;
  - establishing a real-time connection between the user and the vendor;
  - uploading by the user the order list to the vendor;
  - receiving the uploaded order list by the vendor;
  - making the uploaded order list available to the user through a real-
  - 10 time connection;
  - enabling the user to review and approve the uploaded order list during the real-time connection.

28. The method of claim 27, further including enabling the user to modify the uploaded order list during the real-time connection.